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*Journal of a Mission from the Supreme Government of India to the Court of Siam.—By DR. RICHARDSON.*¹

January 22nd.—Long-song-noi, 4h. 50m., fifteen miles. Left Fata-kan, and proceed in a south-west direction along the level towards the hills near the foot of which the path lies till 9h. 35m. when we ascend a rocky hill, and cross a small stream; pass a large Kareen village, which seems a permanent residence of a portion of that wandering tribe; their houses were large, their dress better, and the women were seated in the house more clean and neat in their person than usual; they were the first Kareens we had seen whose forefathers had been inhabitants of this part of the country. The village which was surrounded by high, abrupt rocky hills, consisted of seven or eight houses, with their betel vines and jack fruit trees close round the houses; from this we descend in a ravine till 11h. 25m. where we cross a second run of water; from this the country is more open (the valley of the May-nam-noi may be three miles across) and rocky, the trees small and stunted, with little or no foliage, affording no shade from the sun; the latter part of the march was excessively hot. At 12h. 15m. we crossed the small dry bed of a stream forming the boundary between Tata-kan and Long-tsong; these towns, if they may be

¹ Continued from p. 1036, VOL. VIII.

dignified with the name, have only lately had any territory assigned them, as the province of Dayiek formerly reached from the Pon river, near Takanom, north, to a stream near Camboorie, and form the district of Dwong-ka-dhot, or Moimg-Ontai, east, to the three pagodas on the Tavoy frontier, west. At 12h. 25m. pass a third small stream of water, and at 1h. 20m. halt here on the banks of another, in which the water is standing in small pools in the deepest parts of the bed, with an underground current through the sand. We are not more than two miles from Long-tsong stockade, but to allow the elephants to come up with day-light we were obliged to halt here. The path to-day has upon the whole been good for a hill country, and the water scarce, taking the same circumstance into consideration; but as this is the most precipitous side of the hills the larger portion of the water probably finds its way by the Tenasserim river into the Bay of Bengal. The number of Kareens who pay tribute through Camboorie, mentioned yesterday, is, as I suppose, exaggerated, Dayiek and Taung-ka-paung being the places; Mung-keik's (present chief of the Talines in Siam) father took up his abode on coming over from the Birmans, though the largest number of that people dependant on them have only about 100 each; Tatakan has only thirty, and Pra-sao-one seventy; the average of these two would give fifty for the smaller towns, or a total of about 550. Nine Kareens and fifteen Talines are free from tax, as garrison, if I may call them so, of each of the frontier posts along the river, but they have in lieu to furnish guides and provisions to public officers passing through the country. The elephants came up at 6h. 10m. and it was dark before the tent was pitched.

January 23rd.—4h. 10m., thirteen miles. Start at 8 A. M., and at 8h. 50m. pass the road leading to Long-tsong, about a mile from the river on which that post is situated; from hence we had a cart road throughout the rest of the day, the jungle thin, the trees stunted and scanty of foliage, the country sterile or covered with strong rank grass, the sandstone work protruding through the surface at intervals, without other mark of cultivation or sign of inhabitants, except the good level cart road by which we travelled. 9h. We pass the stream of Long-tsong with

a run of water ankle-deep, soon after which we saw the first sapan wood, the tree much resembling the Caouchouc tree in leaf and appearance, and seldom reaching here (the N. W. limits of its growth) a greater size than the thickest part of a man's arm. Our route lay occasionally near the eastern and occasionally near the western range of hills. At 11h. 45m. we pass another small stream (the May-ta-pan) in a sort of ravine, and at 12h. 30m. halt opposite MOUNG-TSEING (Lion's town) a ruined stockade on the eastern or north-eastern side of the river. I find the Taline garrison in these stockades are more military than I supposed them; they are not employed in collecting the duties which are taken by the Kareens to Camboorie. The chief of MOUNG-TSEING receives sixty tickels a year from the king, and fifty men are detailed for the duty of this post, but as there is no muster roll forwarded to head quarters, those who choose to remain with their families by paying twenty tickals to the Myotsa are allowed to do so; a small part only of the detachment find their way to the frontiers; at this part the force is larger than usual, there are now fifteen men present, and the Myotsa is at Bangkok with a party of five. He (the Myotsa) also levies an annual tax of ten pieces on each man, the king's people excepted, who cut sapan wood in his jurisdiction. Their period of service on the frontier is six months; they say they are allowed to bring their families, but do not do so on account of the malaria, intermittent prevailing here in May and October. Here also they are all Talines from the province of Martaban. A part of their duty is to carry the provisions which are sent up by the king to the gold washers on the Belank, of whom I am here informed there were last year 1500 employed, besides 60 men of the Myotsa of Dayiek or May-nam-noi.

January 24th.—3h. 30m., 11 miles. At 8 left the modern post MOUNG-TSEING, and in 11 minutes reach the crossing of the river, which here runs east. Crossing in three small boats occupied us 30 minutes, and in 20 minutes more reach the walls of the old city of MOUNG-TSEING (or Lion's city) which must have been long deserted; the walls though well defined, are, as well as the whole interior of the place, quite overgrown

with lofty forest trees; it had the form of a square, of a mile in extent on each face, with a large tank and interior town. The people who accompanied us had no traditions respecting it, except that in former days gold and silver were very plentiful here. 15 minutes more brought us out at the river face, from which it is distant a few yards. An hour after leaving the town we met a party of two Siamese and three Talines, with an order from the Myo-won of Camboorie to the Tseetkay of Moun-g-tseing to accompany us to Camboorie; as we were however some miles from him he escaped the duty. So difficult is it to get, or so careless are the people in giving information to be depended on, that one of the two Shans told us they left Camboorie yesterday before daylight, and the other at 11 in the forenoon. At 11h. 15m. pass the small town of Moun-g-khiet, probably deserted about the same time as Moun-g-tseing; the interior was a perfect level, covered with a long even grass, and high forest trees wide apart from each other, and without underwood, giving it the appearance of a park. At 12h. 40m. halt here by a small puddle of stinking green water, the only water except the river which we left at Moun-g-tseing we have seen this march, and the Siamese declare there is no other halting place for nearly as far as we have come. We have had a good, perfectly level cart road, though the plain has never been more than four miles across (from information); the soil seems fertile, and capable of affording subsistence to a large population; but with exception of the posts on the river, the country appears destitute of inhabitants, there being only one or two Kareen villages of two or three houses, in the district of Moun-g-tseing. The See-sa-wat which joins this river at Camboorie is said to have fewer inhabitants than even this, and the intermediate country is a wilderness. We have been much exposed to the sun to-day, which is very powerful, our halting place a perfect level, open, and covered with short grass; the people sleeping about in groups is exceedingly picturesque by the clear moonlight. We have seen to-day hares, partridges, and pea-fowls, and wild dogs are said to be numerous here, larger, with longer hair than the common dog, but

equally varying in colour. Buffaloes, bison, and wild cows have long disappeared, but deer and wild hog are still plentiful.

January 25th.—Camboorie, 5h. 20m., fifteen miles. Thermr. 6 A. M. 66°, Noon 90°. Notwithstanding the repeated assurance of our old Siamese guide, (hitherto they have been Talines,) that the vile water we were drinking was the only water within many miles, the elephant people, when looking for their elephants this morning came on a beautiful stream within 100 yards of us, just when it was too late to be of any use to us. We started at 8 A. M. and marching along a dead level plain, averaging from two or three to six miles in breadth, thinly covered with low trees, very little underwood, with strong crop of coarse grass, the soil apparently good, reached in an hour another stream of water a little N. W. of the road; the march was of one uniform character throughout, and at no great distance from the See-sa-wat river, between which and the road runs a low range of hills, and another of greater altitude, and more rugged and abrupt, between us and the May-nam-noi; at 10h. 30m. passed another small run of water springing out of some rocks in the plain, the water of which is soft and unpleasant. Here we halted half an hour; from this the grass is shorter, but still rank and coarse. At 12h. 45m. we saw the first paddy fields since leaving Maulmain, near which we march till 1h. 25m. when we enter a plantation of cotton, (which was high and flourishing) plantain, and tobacco, close to the See-sa-wat, which we should have known to belong to Chinese, even had we not seen them at work in the fields, so incomparably superior are they in all their operations, agricultural or mechanical, to the indolent slovenly natives of Indo-China. Along this our route lay till 1h. 50m. when we crossed the See-sa-wat, about three and a half or four feet at the deepest, but of considerable width, perhaps 160 paces wide; after waiting an hour at a shed, about thirty feet wide and forty-eight long, enclosed by a palasade of bamboos close to, and partly in the river, and no notice being taken of us, I sent the Siamese interpreter and writer to announce my arrival, and purpose of my visit to the Myo-won, and request an interview tomorrow. The great man was as usual reported to be asleep,

but his writer promised to let him know when he awoke; and almost as soon as my people, the writer made his appearance with a present of ten or twelve trays of fruit, and a civil speech; a few minutes after he had taken his departure, he returned again with three or four trays of sweetmeats and oranges, sent by the Myo-won, with a civil message, and a request to be excused seeing me to-morrow; I however repeated my request of an interview to-morrow, being hurried from delays on the road hither, and have not heard his answer; in the meantime, as usual, the people are not allowed to go out, and two people accompanied my grass cutter when he went for grass. I am told we are still five days from Bangkok, and that it is impossible to take on the elephants by a shorter route than twenty days, up the west side of the Nakoutchathee* river and down the east, the small nullahs being under the influence of the tide, and the mud consequently deep. My informant is the Myotsa of Taung-ka-paung, a wily old Taline, who came here in the great rising of 1876, (1816. A. D.)

January 26th.—Camboorie. About 10 o'clock the Myo-won's writer came out to say, the Won would be glad to see me in the afternoon, as he was engaged now listening to the instructions of some Poonghees of great sanctity, who live the greater part of the year in the jungle, sleeping under trees, with no fear of wild beasts. He inquired what I was in the habit of eating, as he wished to give me an entertainment; I told him I was obliged by his kind intentions, but as I never eat but twice a day begged him not to take any trouble on that account. I had found this the best plea for not partaking of their unsavory kindness, as abstinence is considered meritorious, and eating only twice a day quite a virtue. At a little after 1h. the same person came to say the Myo-won was prepared to receive me, I accordingly rode in taking with me a double barrell'd gun, a flask or two of powder, some caps, and a small carpet. On arrival at a zayat on the bank of the river, ten minutes walk from my tent, I found all the officers of the town assembled, one of whom met

* My informant did not appear to know, or at all events did not give us to understand, that this river was a branch of the May-nam.

me at the door, and pointed out my seat, a chair on one side of the entrance, and the place for some of my people on the floor immediately in front of me. The Won came in about five minutes, and seated himself on a sort of platform at the other end of the room or shed, which might be fifty feet long by twenty-five broad; his officers were in front of him, crouched on their elbows. He asked the usual questions, when I left Maulmain, the state of the road, how I had been treated and furnished with provisions, &c. &c. I inquired when he heard from Bangkok, the health of the king, state of the country, war with Cochin-China, his own health, &c. &c. and after some time I asked him about the convicts escaped from the jail at Tavoy; he said there had twelve arrived some time ago, two of whom had died; six others had been sent from May-nam-noi and arrived the day before yesterday; the ten remaining of the first arrival, were now in irons in jail; the others were not yet confined, but should be immediately. I had yesterday heard (our people who came in the boats saw them) that the officers for Maulmain and Tavoy had left this the day before yesterday, and the Myo-won now confirmed this intelligence. I had expressed my anxiety to see them, and get them to take charge of these prisoners, to the Myotsa of May-nam-noi, and have no doubt the boatmen mentioning this, was the reason of their starting without seeing me, as they would naturally otherwise have wished to do; I however still urged him to send these men back with them. After much conversation, in which I pointed out to him the article in the treaty on the subject, he refused to send them back without an order from the ministers; as he declined giving them up, I requested he would not allow them to escape, as I should repeat the request at Bangkok; he said they were all in irons except the last six; if I did not believe him, I might go and see them. I of course assured him I had implicit confidence in his word; at this juncture about 30 unfortunate Cochin-Chinese prisoners were marched in, of whom there were 3000 at Camboorie; I afterwards heard there were near 1000, probably 300 may be nearer the truth; he said six of these men had made their escape, and begged me to apprehend and send

them back, if I should see them at Maulmain. I told him the people he mentioned I had seen at Maulmain, and on their arrival had assisted them; that he quite mistook the ground on which I demanded these natives of India; that they were felons, condemned to imprisonment for life for murders of the most aggravated kind, which I explained to him, and warned him of their character. After some conversation on the Cochin-Chinese war, he ordered in two or three and twenty small dishes of sweetmeats, roast pork, roast fowls, and soup, all apparently Chinese cooking, of most uninviting appearance, for myself, and different trays for all the people, who did more honour to his hospitality than I could. He then pressed me to stop here for four or five days, as he said was the custom; I however declined remaining more than one day more, and am to start on the 28th. I had by a great deal of inquiry amongst the Talines here learned that there is a good and much frequented road, as was to be expected, from this to Bankok, by Nongkaw, in six days; and when the subject of my route was discussed, as all matters are here, I intimated my intention of going by that route, without allusion to the attempt made to deceive me yesterday. I spoke of the goodness of the road with such confidence, that no attempt was made to dispute the fact now, but a wish expressed that I should go by boats, or if by land even, that I must go to Rajapore or Pra-pree. This I also objected to doing, as it is considerably out of the direct course to Bankok; that I had no business with the Myo-won of Rajapore or Pra-pree; and had here waited on him, the Myo-won of Camboorie, and stated the only object of my visit; he said they had no wish to put any restraint on me; that I might go by any road I felt inclined, but the Myo-won of Pra-pree had made preparations to receive me, and would be disappointed if I did not visit him. The subject was then dropped, and I took my leave, near three o'clock; the sweetmeats, &c. were sent after me to the tent, and about nine in the evening the Taung-ka-paung Myotsa came to press again on me the necessity of going by Pra-pree; I again declined going by that route, as my business lay at Bankok with the ministers; it was decidedly out of my way, and when I got there, how was I to be assured the Myo-won of Pra-

pre would not send me off to some other place; I acknowledged their kindness in wishing to entertain me, and requested him to tell the Myo-won that I preferred going by the route I had mentioned; he promised to do so, staid till near 11 o'clock P.M. and took his departure. I had a visit also from the second officer of the town, who being ill only stayed a few minutes. On the whole they have been civil and attentive; I cannot however make out the motive of the officers en route to Maulmain avoiding me (which they certainly have pointedly done, unless to avoid refusing to take back the Thugs) as it might have influenced their reception there. The Myo-won here receives from the royal bounty 600 tickels a year, besides youm fees.

January 27th.—Received from the Myo-won this morning a present of fruit, &c., and had a long discussion with his writer about the road; they appear determined to take me round by Pra-pree, at the same time to avoid the appearance of constraint. After dinner I called on the Myo-won, according to my proposal of yesterday; he met me at the zayat where I had seen him yesterday, and taking my hand led me to his house just inside the fort. After a good deal of conversation on different subjects, I remonstrated strongly against going round by Rajapore, as I had no business whatever with the chief of that town. I reminded him that the purpose of my mission having last year been intimated to the court, that he himself had been instructed not to detain me (of this I had no doubt); I told him I had already exceeded by many days the time I expected to be in Bangkok, and further delay would render it doubtful whether I should be able to return till after the monsoon, &c. &c. &c. I naturally anticipate a stay of some time in the capital, and fear I shall not be able to get down any number of cattle before the rains, as the route from Bangkok to Zimmay, should I be allowed to proceed there, will occupy a full month. An attempt was made to convict me of having said I would go by Rajapore, and the Myo-won said he had written before my arrival to the chief of that town that I would visit him. I said I did not see in what way the ends of my mission were to be forwarded by the detour, nor that he should have written without my concurrence to the effect he men-

tioned; requested him to consider whether he was doing right in endeavouring to place restraints on me, which we never attempted with Siamese officers' convoy to our provinces. I told him unless I was positively prevented going by Nougkan I should take that route; after a great deal of argument I have been obliged to go by the route they wished. With the exception of this dragging me some days out of my way, my reception here has been on the whole very friendly, though the Myo-won's manner was constrained, and the old writer, whom I suspect is the principal obstacle to going direct to Bangkok, prompted him. We have been plentifully supplied with provisions, and since my first visit to the Myo-won the people have been allowed to move freely about. I repeated the application for the convicts, and mentioned that a sum of 15 rupees each would be paid to cover their expenses on their delivery at Tavoy; he again declined giving them up, as I was going to Bangkok, without an order from thence. I applied for a boat, which was furnished, and by putting the heaviest of the things in it, we shall be enabled to make longer marches; one or two of the people also are sick, and unable to proceed by land. A number of dishes of meat and sweetmeats were again served to me, and the people who accompanied me; and after remaining an hour and a half I returned home, where the Youkabat (or Nakan) soon followed me with twenty-four dancers and musicians, whom he told me were all of his own household; amongst whom there were eight unfortunate women, Cochin-Chinese prisoners, of whose wretchedness and destitution I have heard a good deal to-day; they remained dancing and singing in the clear moonlight night in front of the Tay till eleven o'clock, when I gave each of the performers a rupee, with which they were apparently well satisfied. Their song was all to one air; though the voices frequently did not keep time, it was rather pleasing; the dancing, if it could so be called, was any thing but graceful; the words sometimes Cochin-Chinese, sometimes Siamese. The town of Camboorie is situated opposite the junction of the See-sa-wat and May-man-noi rivers, principally along the bank of the former; it is a long, straggling place, consisting of one long street along the banks of the river,

containing in all 300 houses, and there may be 200 more in the small streets running off, and in the fort. The See-sa-wat is here 150 paces, perhaps 250 feet wide, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep; from the water at its present height, to the point it reaches in the rains, is nearly the same distance as the width of the stream. There are lying here about 122 boats, of which thirty-eight are canoes, the others are boats of considerable size. A brick fort has lately been built here, of about 500 paces long by 300 broad, without defences, unless two semi-lunar breastworks outside on the river face, with five old guns each, may be so called; the wall appears about sixteen or eighteen feet high, and there are said to be twenty guns within the fort; three gates on each side, and one at each end; there is no bazar in the town, but a few stalls on the single bed of the river, where the Chinese have a gambling shop, and where salted eggs and gnapee are sold in small quantities. Upon the whole it is rather a paltry place, considering the importance attached to it by the Burmans, and that it is within six days of the capital. Many of the Cochin-Chinese who can speak Siamese, have been questioning our people as to the possibility of reaching Maulmain, and the Talines are equally anxious that some means for their deliverance could be arranged; I have however checked all idea that my visit was connected with such an object.

January 28th.—Small green pool, S. 36 E. 4h. 40m., fifteen miles. Started at 9h. 15m. having been detained about half an hour for the boat, and in giving a list of the things to be put into it; ten minutes brought us to the end of the village or city, and travelling along near the bank of the Camboorie river, formed by the junction of the May-nam-noi and See-sa-wat, we passed several large plantations of tobacco, and one or two small fields of sugar cane, cultivated by the Chinese; at 10h. 55m., cross the smaller branch of the river, about half-leg deep, and passed along a sandy island, with a kind of short willow on it; cross the larger branch by a boat, this however though rather rapid is of no great depth; just after crossing the river, we pass two small villages, since which we have seen no sign of inhabitants. The road has been level throughout, and well

travelled, jungle thin, water very scarce, and at this halting place it is green and bad; our party has been increased at the little villages we passed in the morning, and we are now accompanied by thirty men who bivouac at a little distance, but do not however interfere with our arrangements. On starting this morning, some of the Myo-won's people met us with a few baskets of rice and some meat opposite the gate of the town.

January 29th.—Bausong-roy, 4h. 20m., fourteen miles. Started this morning at 8h. 50m., and marching along a level road, through a thin jungle with long grass, a great deal of which had however been burned, we passed one old plantation of cotton and plantains, the cotton of a kind I have not seen before, being now ready to gather; the crop was small and scanty, but the plants are now two or three years old, the cotton fine and soft, but rather short in the staple. We are now fairly in the alluvial plain at the head of the gulf; saw only one or two small rocky hills to the westward; the water has been scarcer and worse than yesterday, and we were nearly missing this, which is a swamp, as it lies a little off the road, and the people of the few houses near it, who are Talines, or Laos prisoners from Wiang-tchong took fright at our appearance, taking us for Siamese or Taline small officers. It appears that at stated periods, the Talines are branded on the arm, as belonging to the right or left wing of the army, and their name, number, and officer's company to which they belong, entered in the muster roll of Talines, from which time they are liable to all calls for public duty, those only who have entered the priesthood are excepted; and such as can escape, by concealing themselves, till the impress is over, do so. One old woman in her joy to find who we were, abused the government of the country roundly (though several Siamese of our thirty conductors were present); she said the Siamese, bad as they were, were not so bad as the low Talines who form the officers in army; she said scarce a day passed without tears for the old country; now it was quiet she prayed daily that her next transmigration might be a bird to return there, as she had no hopes now of doing so in this life. There are now about 5000 Talines, 1500 of whom receive royal pay, such as it is; some as little as three

or four tickels a year ; all who have reached the height of two cubits and a span, are branded, and they are numerous, as there has been no impress for three years.

January 30th.—Rajapore, 6h. Eighteen miles. Started this morning at 7h. 45m. and in twenty minutes passed through the clearing in which we pitched our little camp last night ; from this, till 9h. 35m. our route lay through a jungle, of the same scanty stunted trees as we have had for the last few days, the soil poor and sandy ; at 9h. 35m. pass a village of 15 or 20 houses, and enter a plain covered with long reedy grass, near which we saw the first black cattle we have met with in the route ; at 9h. 55m. came on the banks of the Song-roy river, here about sixty feet wide, and apparently not more than ankle-deep, with the tide coming in ; and immediately after coming on the river pass a large village, with a number of Chinamen about it. Here the plain is about three and a half or four miles across, from east to west, with the range of hills to westward, (along which our route has been throughout at no great distance,) running round to a few points east of south, broken and irregular, and the highest probably not more than 6 or 700 feet ; we march along the Song-roy till a little after eleven, when it tends away east, to join the Camboorie river ; the plain increases a little in breadth, and contains three or four small shallow lagoons, all along the borders of which the people, principally prisoners from Wiang-tchong, were employed in planting out paddy. They have a mode of irrigation here, I have not seen used except in China, by means of a long spoon-shaped light trough, with a long bamboo handle, slung in a high triangle of bamboos, the person using which stands on a slight frame raised in the water, and with a spoon in each hand, by means of the slings, throws the water into the channel for conducting it over the fields to a height of about three or four feet. At 11h. 25m. we passed the village of Song-roy of 20 houses, generally of very miserable description ; from this, our route lay S. 31 E. to the town ; the swampy nature of the ground in one place, and a detour round one or two of the small lakes, kept us till two o'clock before we reached it. The boats must have been manned and waiting for us on the town side of the

river, for there started to meet us the moment we halted on the opposite bank, four handsome large boats with platform in the middle, covered with a high roof on four very high posts; in mine there was a carpet and pillow. We pulled rapidly down the river, about a quarter of a mile, and landed at a neat, well finished (I may call it) house, with two wharfs run out into the river, which ran a few feet from the doors; here I found the Myo-won's brother, the Tseetkay, Nakans, and some other officers of the town, waiting to receive me, seated at the edge of the raised centre of the house; there were one or two small China tables and chairs, two or three Calcutta made chairs; and a large old Dutch looking high backed ornamented heavy one in the centre of the room, on which I was requested to be seated. Conversation was confined to a very few questions, when a party with at least twenty trays of fruits, vegetables, and sweetmeats, from the Myo-won, was presented by his brother. The people and my servants were requested not to cook any thing, as every thing ready dressed would be supplied us, and in a few minutes my dinner was brought in, consisting of rice, roast pork, fowls, ducks, and soup, curries of three or four kinds, and some stews; as the curries were not the most inviting, I smuggled my own curry on the table, and managed to make my dinner, after which the people were served in an equally plentiful manner. Two officers (writers), were appointed to attend to all my wishes, a band of eight singers and musicians came by the Myo-won's order to amuse me for an hour and a half, all very well dressed, who remained till 10 o'clock P.M. when our watch was set, and quiet obtained for the night. The music was much less soft and pleasing than that I have been accustomed to hear in Laos, called Siamese. By some accident one of the horses was drowned in crossing the river to-day, he had in the last few years travelled with me upwards of two thousand miles, in the course of which he had repeatedly crossed rivers of much greater width. The Myo-won sent several messages expressive of his sorrow of the accident, and an offer of two or three horses to replace him.

January 31st.—This morning the Myo-won sent a plentiful breakfast for my whole party, and at noon, just as I was preparing to take an altitude of the sun, a number of officers came to say he was waiting to receive me; I accompanied them, taking with me two fuzils, a flask of powder, two small carpets, and a piece of Bengal handkerchief. I found a chair placed for me in the centre of the room, the Myo-won seated with a mat and richly embroidered pillow on a sort of wooden couch, at the end of the room, his officers lying before him on the floor, which was covered with small carpets; the room had been ornamented by a Chinese or Siamese artist with beautiful yellow grass, brown trees, green rocks, and blue cows, with houses stuck here and there in most extraordinary perspective on the rocks, and a ship and one or two junks full sail amongst the trees. Some small old fashioned English prints, China lamps and lanterns, with some spears and muskets, completed the furniture and ornaments of the hall, which was about the size of the house erected for me. The conversation was exceedingly constrained, no one joining except the Myo-won and myself; the subject talked of, was of course the object of my mission, which I told him was to convey to the ministers of his Majesty the king of Siam, the assurance of the high esteem and friendship in which they were held by the ministers of the great ruler of India, to increase and strengthen the friendship between the two countries, and an invitation on my part to his people to be more frequent in their visits to Maulmain, which was now a large and flourishing country. He begged me to be perfectly at home, and said there was no restraint on the people with me, who might go where they pleased, &c. &c. I asked him regarding the route, and intimated my intention to go by land, as I had already been delayed longer than I anticipated on leaving Maulmain; he wished me for my own ease and comfort to go by water, and further urged the impassible state of the road; I expressed my disinclination to do so, as confinement in a boat affected my health; he said he would send word to the Myo-won of Nakoutchathee that he might be prepared to expect me, and the matter seemed settled. I remained about an hour and a half. The interview

was I think more stiff and constrained than I have had with any of the numerous native chiefs I have visited in this country. Soon after my return, his brother brought about thirty or forty large trays of sweetmeats, and twelve or fourteen men loaded with cocoanuts, jacks, and other fruits. I begged him to convey my thanks to the Myo-won for his attention and hospitality, and a request that the guides might be ready early to-morrow, as I wished to start in the cool of the morning. The objections to the land route were again raised, and as the only reason assigned was that the Myo-won had written to the Myo-won of May-klong that I would come that way, but that of course if I wished to go by land, I should not be prevented; as I do not know in what way I may be obliged to travel into Laos, I particularly wish to avoid being parted from my elephants, as the state of the roads may be made an excuse for detaining them, and their absence be pleaded at Bangkok as a bar to going up the country at the season when the water is at the lowest; and as I believe one object of some importance will be gained by breaking down the ridiculous restriction to our intercourse with this people, I assured him I asked for nothing we did not readily accord to others; and drew his attention to the perfect freedom from restraint of their officers at Tavoy and Maulmain, and repeated my wish to go by land; pointed out to him that we were here to the south of Bangkok, and should now have to return N. E. whereas had I been allowed to proceed, which I wished to do directly, across the country from Camboorie, and which any other person going to Bangkok would have done, I should by to-morrow have reached that city, &c., though making the acquaintance of the Myo-won of Pra-pree had rewarded me for coming so far out of my way; but I now wished to take the nearest route. He said he would take his brother's orders, and went into the town for that purpose. I requested him to say, as curiosity was not my motive, if the Myo-won would say he did not wish me to see that part of the country, I would go by any route he pleased. As he had not returned at 11 o'clock I told the mahouts to get the elephants early in the morning to start by land, as I had agreed with the Myo-won personally in the forenoon. The town of Rajapore, or as it is commonly called, Pra-pree, is of very

considerable size, though I have been unable to obtain any accurate information as to the number of people it contains, from the excessive jealousy of the people on such subjects; and from its extent, have not been able to count the number of houses, as was roughly done at Camboorie. The greater number of the inhabitants, as in that town, live about the banks of the river, outside the fort, which has a brick wall of about eighteen feet high, with an open parapet and ravelin at each corner, two doors in the long faces, and one at the ends; it stands east and west along the banks of the river, which here runs to the eastward a distance of a few hundred paces, it is about 300 paces broad, and 7 or 800 long, with a large portion of the ground waste inside; there were about 200 or 280 boats in the river of a large size; the river is fordable a short way above the town at low water, and the tide does not rise more than four feet opposite the town at spring tides. I am told the Myo-won receives from the king 600 tickels a year, and has the law fees and presents besides. I do not believe, from all I have heard, that any of the chiefs of towns receive so large a sum.

February 1st.—Bankiew, 4h. 50m., fifteen miles. Sent the mahouts for the elephants at day-light; they found them, contrary to the promise of the people sent by the Myo-won to take charge of them, tied up close to the town. When preparing to start, a message was brought from the Myo-won to request me not to hurry off, as breakfast was preparing for our party, to which I returned an acknowledgment of his kindness, and intimation of my readiness to wait. The interval was employed by me in dispatching two boats I had been furnished with for the sick and some of the royal presents, and by them in again urging me to go by the river, now on the Myo-won's account, as the Myo-won of Camboorie would obtain credit with the king for having prevailed on me to come here, whilst he could not get me to go to May-klong; they disclaimed any wish to prevent my seeing that part of the country; I said I did not think personal motives should have weight with us, that I did not consult my own personal ease in labouring over the hot plains, but that I had been sent by a great government to the

ministers at Bangkok, and that I wished to make the greatest possible dispatch to where I was ordered, and should have done so from Camboorie had I not been prevented; and when I had seen the ministers, I should be happy to comply with their desire in visiting any towns they might wish. The breakfast was brought in and discussed, and we started; the guides were fortunately not ready. We were conducted along the west and south faces of the fort, and whilst halting for the guides at a small *zayat*, half a mile from the town, met a party of labourers coming in from the paddy fields, and on inquiry found that they were just about to lead us amongst muddy nullahs and inlets from the sea, influenced by the tide, against which we had several times been warned to be on our guard by Burman and Taline refugees. The labourers had just pointed out the proper road, when the guides came up, and declared that no road existed in the direction I now proposed to go; that, that road, pointing along a road apparently leading to the salt grounds at the head of the gulf, was the only one in existence; I however took the direction pointed out to us considerably more to the northward, and inquiring of people on the road and at the villages, all of whom assured me we were on the proper road, reached this place at 3h. 35m. A few miles north of the town runs a rather deep belt of palmyra trees with common jungle, tending away a little to the northward of east, in which is the high road to Bangkok, with several villages along it; also in the jungle, between this belt and the head of the gulf, a distance of about two days, is an alluvial plain, the lower edge intersected, as already stated, and forming salt fields, the upper edge cultivated to a considerable extent by the inhabitants of the villages along the road, though this plain is said to be covered with water in the rains, so that boats pass along it in all directions, but at this season is perfectly dry near the jungle, so that we had no occasion to go on to the road, which ran a mile or a mile and a half to the northward of our course. Though there was no path, we took the direction pointed out by the few people we met. We passed seven villages in the day, the largest might contain thirty or forty houses, and at the last a large herd of cattle and buffaloes, which sell here

the former at three or three and a half tickels, and the latter at seven; the best carriage bullocks, five tickels, or six and a half Madras rupees; the low price is of course from the absence of a demand, for they are very scarce, and indeed can be of very little use in so swampy a country with a Boodist population, though the Siamese no more than the Burmans object to eat beef, and there are not wanting people to take on themselves the sin of killing the cattle. Our guides here in no way interfered with us.

February 2nd.—Ban-ta-chang, 5h. fifteen miles (close to Bankem). One small well of brackish water formed the whole supply for our party after an excessively hot day's march; yesterday we were not sorry to leave our last halting place, which we did at 7h. 40m. A. M. Our route has been exactly of the same character as yesterday, sometimes across the country through the paddy fields or reedy plains, sometimes along the main road, in the jungle and palmyra forest which skirted it, all along which are the villages of the cultivators, consisting of small groups of five or six houses, and the population just along the line of road is considerable. A small portion of the plain crossed to-day is under cultivation, the largest patch we crossed at 9h. 30m. with a few hundred head of cattle and buffaloes grazing about. At ten we cross a small jeel, and close to our present halting place another long one, extending some miles into the plains, and here three and a half feet deep with a muddy bed and covered with floating grass; it did not seem influenced by the tide, and is used by the people for domestic purposes. We are still accompanied by the thirty men sent with us from Pra-ree; they have not to-day interfered in any way, or been of the least service to us.

February 3rd—Nakoutchathee, 5h. 20m., seventeen miles four furlongs. The people who have accompanied us from Pra-ree left us last evening, (the lake being the boundary of their district) without any apparent communication with the people of this district, or stating to me their intention, and we had some difficulty in procuring a guide to-day, who would not approach this village, and returned as soon as we came in sight of it. We started at 7h. 30m. and travelled along a road of the same charac-

ter as the last two or three days, still at an average distance of about two days from the sea. Cutting across the skirts of the plain, by which we have saved a day, as it is two days by the high road from Ban-ta-chang to Nakouchathee, we crossed in the course of the day eight muddy lakes or long pools of water, with mud, weeds, and water, varying from 2 or 3 to 6 or 8 feet deep ; the worst one we crossed in a small boat just capable of holding two persons ; we passed also seven straggling villages, but as they were within the belt of trees, we had no opportunity of judging of their extent, except by inference, as though there was a good deal of cultivation it was perhaps less than the two previous days, the cattle and buffaloes rather more numerous. We saw two herds of perhaps 200, the others consisting of a few, say four herds of 10 or 12. I was told by our guide to-day, that the best buffaloes sell for 10 or 12 tickels, and good bullocks, about the same price, though as much as 20 tickels is sometime paid for a choice cart bullock, inferior at 6 or 7, as cattle are cheaper near Camboorie, but not abundant in any of the southern provinces. There were a few people at work in the paddy fields, but all their thrashing floors seem small, as if the cultivation in the neighbouring villages was principally for their own consumption ; the largest floor we have seen is at this place, where there is a stack of paddy ready to be trodden out, which my agricultural people estimate at 1500 Burman baskets, and I was told in crossing the fields to-day that it sold at about 9 tickels for $66\frac{1}{2}$ Burman baskets, but their measure seems arbitrary and uncertain. On arriving here the first person we met in the village (for it does not contain more than 200 houses) told us that the Myo-won was at the north end of it, preparing the zayat for us ; and on arriving here we found by the chips and new thatch that it had been new roofed yesterday. Just as my people were going in to the Myo-won to report my arrival, the Tseetkay and town officers came out to inquire who I was, where I came from, and where I was going ; though by their preparations they were certainly aware of our coming. I satisfied them on these points, and asked if the Myo-won of Pra-pree had not sent, as he had promised me he would do, to the officers here, stating the purport of my

mission, and a request to furnish me with what I might require ; they said they had not heard a word of my approach before the moment of my arrival ; they said it was impossible to take elephants and horses by this route to Bangkok, that indeed there was no road even for foot passengers. They departed with the information they had obtained to the Myo-won, who in about an hour sent to say he would be glad to see me if I wished to call on him, and I did so before dinner. After the usual topics were discussed, he repeated with such earnestness and apparent sincerity, appealing to his age (which may be about seventy-eight) as a voucher for his veracity, that the road was impassable between this and Bangkok, in fact that no road existed, that it was scarcely possible to resist conviction, particularly as I had not had time to make any private inquiries amongst the people, and had learned nothing about the road except the general assertion of all we have asked about it, that it is good and daily travelled. I was obliged to consent to his writing to the ministers, and as I had no Siamese writer, I myself wrote to Mr. Hunter—a British merchant who has resided at Bangkok many years, and has often been the channel of communication with the ministers both from Singapore and Maulmain—stating the fact of my arrival here, and begging him to intimate the same to the ministers, with the reason of my not writing, and a request not to be kept longer than necessary. I much fear it will be impossible, in compliance with the terms of my instructions, to have any of the cattle in Maulmain by the beginning of May. My previous information regarding the goodness of the road has been confirmed by the people of the village and the Ponghees, who also told my people that messengers from Pra-ree arrived here yesterday with a communication regarding me, the nature of which I have not learned.

February 4th.—Have had communication with the people of the village to-day. I endeavoured to send some of my Taline people to a village of their countrymen on the opposite side of the river to buy fowls, and inquire about the road, but a boat was refused them, and the town officers offered to procure any thing we wanted.

February 5th.—We have received from the town provisions

for the people, and boughs for the elephants, which we are obliged to tie up at night, as there is so much paddy exposed at this season. This afternoon I had a request from the Myo-won that I would call on him, with which I immediately complied, and found that our boat had arrived at the capital during the previous night, and the ministers had sent an order to the chief here to furnish me with boats to proceed, leaving the elephants and horse. I endeavoured, without success, to take the latter, as I should want him; they made all manner of excuses; said there were no boats large enough; I should have to wait a day, as they must send down the river for one; I told them, I had seen several boats here sufficiently large; they said they were unsteady and unsafe; I replied the horse was accustomed to boating, that I had carried him 500 miles in a boat last year; they then shuffled from one objection to another. I begged them to say at once if I would be allowed to take him or not, as I had no intention to oppose their wishes, but if not positively prevented, I wished to take him with me as necessary to my comfort; though they would not pointedly refuse, they would not allow me to take him. After some conversation on matters of no interest I took my leave, and they set about preparing our boats. I this morning sent a Taline lad (the head mahout) to a village about a mile and a half down the river; the only Taline there is (with his family) employed in making bricks for the Myo-won, to whom he is a bonded debtor; he said that that was the commencement of the road to Bangkok, that buffaloes, people, and elephants travel it every day; that about "a call" inland from where they were, the jungle terminated, being only a narrow strip by the river, and from thence with a glass they might see three zayats on the road at about equal distances, and from the last, from the back of the elephants, they might see the village Quankalanai (Taline king's village) on the banks of the May-nam river; that the distance was easily done in half a day by an unencumbered man; that he himself came that way a short time ago, his residence being on this side of the May-nam, in little more than half a day with a little boy of his, whom he pointed out. The family were all familiar with the road, and some of the women

made a sketch on the ground. A short way above the town is the entrance of a canal; between this branch and the main river, and on the banks of this canal the second of the three zayats before mentioned is situated; from this the road runs along its banks. If crossed at the first zayat there is another road which comes on the river May-nam above Bangkok. Had I been possessed of this information yesterday I need not have lost so much time here. This is rather a large straggling village, along the banks of the river of the same name, containing about 300 houses, and ten or twelve large Ponghee houses, though there does not appear to be more than twenty priests. The houses are here small and ruinous in appearance, nearly all built of bamboos, that of the Myo-won only a little larger than the rest. He is said to receive from the king 200 tickels a year, the Tsetkay and Ngakan 100 each. The river is about 160 or 200 feet wide, with soft muddy banks, and apparently of considerable depth; the tide rises here four feet, and large masses of weeds knit together by the root, growing vigorously, some of them having a surface of sixty or eighty square feet, float up and down with the tide. On asking the old Myo-won to-day the distance from this to the sea, he said he could not tell, never having been there; I learned however that it is about two days by the river.

February 6th.—Embarked in four boats, and started for Bangkok at 9 A. M. Proceeding south-easterly, passed at 9h. 30m. a small sugar factory with two mills, with high conical thatched roofs, the roofs of the boiling houses of the same material, and apparently very low, considering the large fires that were burning in them. At 9h. 55m., passed the end of the road leading across to Bangkok; at 12h. 30m. halted at a small village for the people to breakfast; my servants' boat was overloaded, and did not come up till near three o'clock, when I had breakfast and dinner in one, to prevent a second halt. Started again at 3h. 45m. and continued pulling with the stream till 9 P. M. when we halted for some hours. We passed in the course of the day many small villages, almost entirely occupied by Chinese employed in the manufacture of sugar, in all eight small establishments, the largest with four mills drawn by

one or two buffaloes each for breaking the cane ; the heaps of firewood opposite each seemed disproportionately large. The banks of the river are excessively low, but at the village where we halted for breakfast, on proceeding about a gunshot in land, you pass a belt of cocoanut trees, with a good deal of under-wood, and come out on an extensive plain, which appeared to reach to the May-nam, quite dry at this season, and covered with paddy stubble. Here we were again assured of the existence of a road, perfectly dry and good, and the fact of an elephant (called white, but which only differed from the common ones in having a reddish coloured head) having crossed lately to Bangkok.

February 7th—Started 1h. 30m. A.M. with the moon ; the fog which did not clear up till 8 o'clock was so thick that nothing was to be seen. The east bank of the river, near which we kept, was of the same character as yesterday, but fewer inhabitants ; indeed, I did not see a village till we reached this place. We halted at a custom house chokey from 5h. 15m. till 6 A.M. just before reaching which we passed the cross branch leading to the May-klong, the banks of which are thickly peopled by salt makers ; the sea water being evaporated, is repeated by fresh artificial inundations into quillies like those of a paddy field ; the salt is sold at three annas a basket, and pays one rupee eight annas duty ! Passing the chokey we leave the main branch of the river, which runs away westerly to fall into the sea, and at 7h. 50m. enter the Maha-tshi Canal, which runs north-east to Bangkok ; just above the bifurcation is situated Moug-tachin, an uninhabited low square brick fort, and immediately below it a village of Talines of nearly 100 houses, joining which is the Siamese town of Moug-tachin. The water here being salt they get their water from Bangkok for six months in the year ; the Chinese, who appear to monopolise the traffic of the country, bringing it down in jars, or in perfectly tight boats which they fill ; the price is sufficiently moderate. Here a tay had been built for our reception, which we reached at 8h. 15m. having been on the way about six hours. The Myo-won's brother was at the tay to receive me, and he himself soon afterwards came out in a sort of Chinese monshell ; he was dressed in China

crape ; indeed the whole furniture and ornaments of their houses, and most of their clothes, are borrowed from that people. He was quite civil, and remained about an hour ; he told me it would be expected I should remain here till the next day, against which I in vain remonstrated. The people were all feasted, the dinner placed on little tables in the Chinese manner, and an abundance of pork and vegetables, fruit, sweetmeats, and tea, &c. &c. &c. were brought out for me. The Myo-won told me there were about 1500 Talines here, and I learned afterwards from a brother of the Hloot-dăn writer at Maulmain, who is a refugee and most anxious to get away, that there are on the different branches of the river about eight or nine hundred families of Talines, many of them employed in making salt.

February 8th.—Bankok, 13h. 30m. About 7 A. M. the Myo-won came to the zayat, having previously sent out breakfast for myself and the people, and said we had better now start. He asked a number of questions regarding the objects of my mission, which, having the orders of the ministers, and boats sent by them to convey us to Bankok, he ought not to have put ; as however I had no object in refusing, I answered him in detail. He came to the end of the wharf to see me off, and hoped to see me on my return. The boats which had arrived from Bankok in the night were large, commodious paungs (long boats with a house on them) sufficient to convey every body with comfort, manned, the one by twenty Talines, the other by twenty Cummins, or Cambodians ; the Talines were dressed in blue shirts and trowsers, and black bamboo-work hats, and the Cummins like Malays, whom they very much resemble in appearance. We started at 9 A. M. the tide turned against us at 10, and our progress was consequently very slow ; at 4h. 45m. we were obliged to halt from want of water, and remained till past 10 P. M. when we started at quarter flood. At 11h. 20m. P. M. we enter a cut made from the head of the Mahitchi to the small stream which falls into the May-nam, which completes the communication through the Nakoutchathee branch between the May-nam and May-klong ; this we passed in seven minutes, and in half an hour got into deep water on the Bankok

side of the cut. Since dark, the light in the boat prevented us seeing any thing on the banks. At 4h. A. M. halted at the British factory, on the side of the river opposite the fort and city of Bangkok, and found Peadadie, the port Captain, a Benedito (who has received from the king the title of Peavitsit) commandant of artillery, and Pascal, all native Christian Portuguese, waiting my arrival at a mat house, Mr. Hunter, under orders from the ministers, had prepared for me just between his own compound and the river. Mr. Hunter, who has a Siamese title, and whom they consider in some degree as a Siamese officer, also came down to receive me.

February 9th.—Bangkok. About seven or eight o'clock a message was brought from His Excellency the Praklang (minister for foreign affairs, whose house is on this side of the river, and close to the British factory) requesting to see Mr. Hunter, who immediately waited on him; after he had been gone some minutes, he sent a note to say the Praklang wished to see copies of the letters, if I had them, and had no objection to send them (to which as I saw no objection) I forwarded them by the person who brought the note. During Mr. Hunter's absence a son of the Praklang's, an exceeding intelligent young man, came to see me,* and a present was brought me from the Praklang of fruits and sweetmeats; and Mr. Hunter, on his return, said the Praklang was very much pleased with the letters, and would be glad to see me in the forenoon. About twelve o'clock boats were reported ready to take us to the house of the minister, but just as we were starting, a second message arrived to say the king was so much inclined to be friends with the English, that though the letters were not addressed to him, he would receive them as though they had been, and that a boat would be sent for them; and as the letters were to go to the king, the Praklang begged us to defer our visit till the evening. In a few minutes one of the royal state boats, with a roof of embroidered cloth of scarlet and gold, and rowed by about

* I afterwards doubted if he came on my account, and had good reason to believe he did not.

forty men in the royal livery (red jackets), and commanded by an officer, was announced, and a proper vessel for the reception of the letters brought up, covered with a cloth of gold embroidery; on this I placed the letters both of the secretary of the government of India and the commissioner, and carried them myself (a Siamese officer covering them with a red umbrella) down to the boat, where they were respectfully received, placed in the centre of it, and covered with an umbrella. We departed attended with three other state boats. Soon after dinner a message arrived from the Praklang to say he had sent boats for our conveyance, and was ready to receive us, I accordingly went; Mr. Hunter, Captain Browne, Captain Hughes, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Hayes accompanied me. Mr. Hunter, who kindly acted as interpreter, and myself went in the state boat sent for me, and the other gentlemen in Mr. Hunter's boat, the Ghyne-Goung-Gyoup, a Burman officer who accompanied me, and whom I begged Mr. Hunter to mention to the Praklang, and some of my Burman followers in a second government boat; we reached the Praklang's in about five minutes, and found him with the second Praklang and several other officers of rank already assembled; chairs were placed for us at the opposite side of the hall to where the Siamese officers were crouched on their elbows, and coffee was served to us in a handsome set of Dresden China. The hall was a long and handsome room, entirely in the Chinese style, and splendidly lighted up with English lamps and chandeliers. We walked at once up to the chairs; when seated I saluted him by raising my hand up to my forehead; removing our shoes was not once alluded to; indeed all the English gentlemen always retain them when visiting His Majesty or his ministers. Conversation was entirely between the Praklang and myself, except for a few minutes, when he addressed himself to the Goung-Gyoup through a Taline of his household. I explained the purpose of my visit to be to assure them of the wish of the Indian Government to strengthen, if possible, the already firm friendship for many years uninterrupted, and begged them to receive the thanks of the commissioner for their kindness to our traders, and for their prompt endeavours to discover and

release Mrs. Breisley.* I expressed my sense of the friendly act of the king in receiving the letters himself; the Praklang replied that the Siamese government were equally anxious with the English for the increase of existing friendship, and were much obliged to the government of India and to the commissioner for sending, and to myself for coming through such a desolate jungle as that I have crossed. I was asked the usual questions as to the health of the Right Hon'ble. the Governor General of India and other members of Government; how long I had been on the road; how I had been received; and whether all my people were well; to which I returned the usual answers, and expressed my thanks for the kindness which I had received. I mentioned the deception practised by the governor of Nakoutchathee; he said it was all out of kindness and consideration for my own comfort, and laughing heartily, he said he could not conceive how any one could prefer travelling in the sun to lying quietly on his back in a boat, and progressing by the labour of other people. He then alluded to what I had mentioned to him through Mr. Hunter in the morning; the indignity they had offered in making the walls of the hall they had prepared for me and my people of materials which had been used in the funeral of the late queen, than which, according to the superstitious notions of the Burmans, and of course of the Siamese, no greater insult can be offered in Burma; no one but the Toobayazah (who with his whole family are so degraded that no one will associate with them) will touch any article which has been so defiled; in fact, with the peculiar notions of these people; it was impossible for me to avoid mentioning it; he said they had no such feelings regarding these

* The wife of an English gentleman who left Mergui with his family in the disturbance in 1829, with the intention of applying to the Penang government for assistance. They were supposed to have been murdered by their Malay boat's crew as they had a good deal of property on board, but as reports reached Penang and Maulmain, where some of the lady's friends reside, that she had been seen in some of the Siamese Malayan states the commissioner in the Tenasserim provinces wrote to the ministers, who at once sent for the people described, they however turned out to be Burmans who had accompanied some ship's officers many years ago, and had no wish to return.

things in Siam, which I know is not true, and Mr. Hunter had heard the people in passing making remarks on the materials, but was not aware of the feelings on the subject. The Praklang offered if I wished to have it immediately taken down ; I told him that of course I should be obliged by his doing so, as I could not use the house until it was altered. The Praklang seemed excessively annoyed that I had been told of it, and gave orders to prevent the people communicating with my followers ; of this I complained, and asked him to remove the restriction; he said they have always been enemies with the Burmans, and could not now feel otherwise ; but as they had come with me no restraint should be put upon them, but they must tell the officer on duty at their quarters when their friends came to see them. I pointed out to him, that these people had no more to do with the Burman government than the Siamese, and that I only wished them to have the same liberty the Siamese had when they came to Maulmain. He said such was their friendship for the English, that they might go when and where they pleased. He then asked me if I had served in the last war with Ava, and whether it was likely we should go to war with that country again. I explained the conduct of the present Burman government towards Colonel Burney, the forbearance of the government of India, and its wish to avoid a war, but that fears were entertained that it would be impossible, from the warlike preparations made by the present king, his refusal to consider himself bound by the treaty of Yandaboo, or receive the present resident. A good deal of conversation passed on this subject ; he did not, however, proffer any assistance, nor did I think it necessary at this meeting to make any request about the cattle. He asked me how and when I proposed returning ; I said it was impossible for me to say ; he assured me I might go in any direction I chose, by land or by water, and remain as long as I pleased ; he requested me to wait a couple of days, when I should be introduced to the king, for which honour I expressed my thanks ; we took our leave and returned home. The Praklang is a fat, good tempered old gentleman, about sixty, he received us with nothing on but the cloth round his loins, seated on a raised platform or square couch.

His manners are said to be much changed since his first arrival at his present dignity; he was then haughty and imperious, he is now friendly and affable, a great favourite of Mr. Hunter's and all Europeans frequenting the port. In the evening Coon-sit, the son of the Praklang, who is intimate with Mr. Hunter, and whom he meets on terms of perfect equality, came in for an hour to our residence; he is a modest and unassuming man, of considerable intelligence; he writes English pretty well, understands nearly all that is said to him, and speaks a little. He has considerable mechanical talent, and has just finished a ship on an English model of about 400 or 500 tons; he is by some said to be an eaves-dropper, and to take advantage of his intimacy with Mr. Hunter to listen to and report to his father any inadvertent remark made by Europeans.

Memoranda respecting the existence of Copper in the territory of Luz, near Bela. By Captain DE LA HOSTE, Assistant Quarter Master General, S. R. F.

[Communicated to the Society from the Political Department, Government of India.]

During the absence on sick leave from the Sinde Reserve Force, Captain George Boyd, of the second Grenadiers, performed my duties, and having heard that antimony was procurable near a place called Shah Bellawl, he sent one of the guides to survey the road to that village, and make inquiries on the subject of antimony being found there.

On the return of the guide (second guide Esso Rama) he brought with him specimens of *lead* as well as of antimony, both of which were sent by Captain Boyd to Dr. Hedde, Assay Master in the Mint, Bombay. Having shortly after arrived and assumed charge of my appointment, it became my duty to extract the route from the guide's field book, when on questioning him respecting the place to which he had been (Hoja Samote) I found he had been informed, that in former days copper, silver, and gold had been found in the mountains near that village. Considering the report worthy of being inquired into, I sent for the brother of Navillull, named Sukkaramdass, and asked him if he had ever heard any thing of the report; he informed me that he had, and that a banian of Kurrachee